

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Mickey Rea



Black-crowned Night Heron



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Cookie Ferguson

Mikayla Craven

Greg Thoman

May Nature Center Hours:

9:30 am - 4:30 pm CDT Daily

www.stateparks.in.gov

Need a Park Map?



All programs are **free** (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring an adult.

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

May 5-8, 2016

For more info and full programs visit

www.indunesbirdingfestival.com



Friday May 6

12:30pm-4:40pm Flying WILD Workshop.

This special workshop takes place during the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival and features great hands on activities for educators of all sorts as it relates to birds. A \$20 fee is payable the day of the workshop. To register, call the Dunes State Park Nature Center at 219-926-1390 before May 1.

Saturday May 7

10am-4pm Youth and Family Birding Day!

As part of the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, join the Indiana Young Birder's Club for a fun day of birding activities. Take part in beginning bird walks, ID quizzes and games, build a bluebird box, dissect owl pellets, as well as live bird banding. Special youth birder presentations occur as well. Come for an hour or the entire time! All activities take place at the Nature Center.

1pm Hawkwatching for Beginners. Join us for a quick and dirty introduction to the art and science of identifying flying hawks. Guest speaker Gerry Wykes will introduce the process, assessment of patterns, and behavior to look for towards simple hawk ID. This program takes place in the Nature Center.

2pm Secret Love Life of Birds! This engaging talk will entertain and educate you! From promiscuous blackbirds, to dedicated dads, these birds can make the "real housewives of New Jersey" look tame by comparison. Learn more at the Nature Center with Wild Birds Unlimited Naturalist John Schaust.

3pm Frogs of the Indiana Dunes. Explore the interesting diversity of both frogs and salamanders that live in the dunes area. Guest speaker Nate Engbrecht will highlight these unique animals, their natural history and how to identify them by call. Meet at the Nature Center.



Sunday May 8

Happy Mother's Day!

6am The Dunes Longshore Flight. If the winds are from the south, join area birders for the morning passerine bird migration that takes place over the high dunes. Meet at the Bird Observation Tower by the park's West Beach Lot.

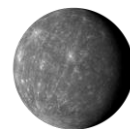
11am Project SNOWstorm. In just two years, a treasure trove of data has been learned integrating Snowy Owls and GPS units. Join Steve Huy, project co-founder, to discuss this amazing new project and what we're learning about these amazing birds. The program takes place in the Nature Center.

1pm Tales of a Bad Birdwatcher! Gerry Wykes will take you on an entertaining journey through the imperfect world as a career naturalist and birdwatcher. Join us in the Nature Center for this great talk.

Monday May 9

10am Mercury Transit Event!

Join the naturalists at the Nature Center for a very unique event! A transit of Mercury across the Sun takes place when the planet Mercury comes between the Sun and the Earth, and Mercury is seen as a small black dot moving across the face of the Sun. We'll have special optics for viewing this event. This won't take place at the dunes again for at least a decade. Come on out!



Saturday May 14

International Migratory Bird Day!

9am Birding the Indiana Dunes! Grab your binoculars and join us as we search out migrating warblers, vireos, flycatchers, and more during this statistical peak in songbird migration! We'll meet at the Nature Center for a 2 hour, easy terrain, trek through a quiet section of Trail 2. BB

2pm Winged Migration! Enjoy the comfort of the Nature Center Auditorium as we show the Academy Award winning documentary that captured thousands of birds in their annual migration. Total time about 90 minutes. Join us!

8pm Woodcock Watch! Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center. From there we'll carpool 5 minutes to a local spot to seek out the wonderful woodcock and his amazing spring dance. Total time about one hour. BB

Sunday May 15

9:30am Mid-May Warblers. Grab your binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours) and join us for an hour hike searching out the late migrating warblers, flycatchers, and more! Meet at the Nature Center. BB
2pm 100th Anniversary of State Parks! If you haven't seen this PBS special, come check it out! Explore 100 years of state park history, from the first state park to what's being done now in this 45-minute documentary in the Nature Center Auditorium

Saturday May 21

10am Just a Dam Hike! It's the first official spring hike through the beaver domain! Check out what our beavers have been up to all spring on this walk through the swamp. Meet at the Campground Gate. CF

2pm Who Pooped in the Park! Okay, who dun it!? Test your facts on feces during this fun game with prizes. We'll study the science of scatology and give out prizes for those that really know their poop! Visit the Nature Center to learn more! GT

Sunday May 22

10am Wetland Safari. Throw on your safari hat and join us for an adventure down towards the wetlands. We'll explore this amazingly bio-diverse area, including the aquatic life below the water! GT

2pm Scales and Tales! Slither over to the Nature Center for a fun look at the reptiles of Indiana Dunes. We'll have many live animals for you to see and touch! A great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these animals. MC

Friday May 27

8pm Sunset Creek Hike. Join Brad for a look at twilight along Dunes Creek. We'll explore the diverse plant and animal life that uses this unique area of the park while looking for evening signs of life. Total time about one hour. Join us! BB



Saturday May 28

10am The Three Dune Challenge! Join Mikayla for a morning jaunt as we ascend the largest sand dunes in Indiana. We'll meet at the Campground Shelter (by site 113) and make our way up Trail 4 to Mt. Tom and explore the ridges and valleys before and after. We'll conquer Holden and Jackson to help you earn your 3DC stickers. What a way to kick off the spring recreation season! MC



3pm A High Tech Scavenger Hunt. Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno-twist! Meet at the Nature Center and learn about the hobby of geocaching, and try your hand at finding one for yourself. Prizes for the kids! Join us! BB

9am Birds and Blooms on Trail Two. Grab binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours as we seek out to discover the recently arrived birds and newly flowering plants along the hidden and often un-hiked portion of Trail Two. Meet at the Campground Gate. BB

Sunday May 29

10am Woodland Wander. Join us for a morning walk through the back dunes forests. We'll check out the sights and sounds on this late May morning. Meet Greg at the Nature Center for this 45-minute stroll. GT

3pm The Incredible Journey. Explore the twists and turns that a single drop of water takes in Northwest Indiana before it reaches Lake Michigan. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center to solve a little water puzzle. We'll then play a water game and craft to remember your drop of water. GT



5pm 100th Anniversary of State Parks! If you haven't seen this PBS special, come check it out! Explore 100 years of state park history, from the first state park to what's being done now in this 45-minute documentary in the Nature Center Auditorium

Monday May 30

Memorial Day!

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Don't forget to bring mom along! Great fun for the kids. GT

3pm Turtle Time! Explore the dune terrapins this afternoon from the Nature Center. Scoot your way in for a fun look at their special adaptations and the species that live in the dunes. Great family program! MB



Sign up for Summer Camp Today!

Dunes Explorer Day

Camp Dates:

July 18-22, 2016 for kids 6-9 years of age

Aug 1-5, 2016 for kids 10-13 years of age

**For more info, call the Nature Center at
(219) 926-1390.**

Find These Programs and others at Indiana State Parks and Reservoirs On-line at
www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Make a Campsite or Shelter Reservation at 1-866-622-6746 or on-line at www.CAMP.IN.gov

Visit the Dunes on Government 2.0

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